

SECOND REPORT
OF THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE
FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION
OF PHILADELPHIA AND ITS VICINITY,
FOR THE
RELIEF OF COLORED FREEDMEN.

Read at the Annual Meeting of the Contributors, held at Arch Street Meeting-House,

Philadelphia, 4th Month 17th, 1865.

PHILADELPHIA:
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1865.

At the Annual Meeting of Friends' Association, of Philadelphia and its vicinity, for the relief of colored Freedmen, held 4th month 17th, 1867—

The Report of the Executive Board, exhibiting their labors during the past year, and the present condition of the work in which they are engaged, was read and referred to the Board, now to be appointed, for publication, together with such other matter as they may think desirable for circulation, to aid the cause of the Freedmen.

The Report of the Treasurer, attested by a Committee of the Board, was read, showing a balance of \$10,059.13 now in his hands.

The Nominating Committee presented the following named Friends to fill the offices in the Association and for the Executive Board, which being approved, they were appointed to the respective Stations, viz :

President, Samuel Hilles; *Secretary*, Dr. Charles Evans; *Treasurer*, Richard Cadbury; *Executive Board*, Samuel R. Shipley, John B. Garrett, Marmaduke C. Cope, Anthony M. Kimber, Philip C. Garrett, Thomas Scattergood, Benjamin Coates, Wm. Evans, jr., James Whitall, John S. Hilles, Elliston P. Morris, J. Wistar Evans, John W. Cadbury, John C. Tatum, Joel Cadbury, jr., Wm. C. Longstreth, David Scull, jr., Caleb Wood, John E. Carter, Dr. James E. Rhoads.

The following named Friends are appointed to bring forward to our next Annual Meeting the names of suitable persons to fill the several offices, viz: Charles Ellis, Samuel Bettle, Horatio C. Wood, Yardley Warner, Samuel Hilles, Charles Rhoads, Francis R. Cope and John B. Garrett.

The business of the Association being gone through, and many Friends having expressed their views on the various interesting subjects brought before the meeting, exhibiting a lively and undiminished interest in the cause of the Freedmen, and calculated to encourage all engaged in this good work to persevere in their efforts, the meeting concluded.

REPORT.

In presenting their Second Annual Report, the Board take pleasure in announcing that the liberality with which the efforts of the former Board were sustained, through the pecuniary contributions of the benevolent, has been remarkably maintained. There has scarcely been a time when the treasury has been so much exhausted, as seriously to impede the operations of any branch of the work; and where this seemed likely to occur, fresh appeals for aid have been always responded to. The quick feeling of sympathy produced by the recital of the miseries of our fellow beings, not less deserving than ourselves, but exposed to physical suffering and mental deprivations, from which we have been most mercifully preserved, has been shown to exist with little if any exception, wherever these appeals have penetrated. Both at home and abroad, the rich have given of their abundance, and the poor of their penury, with an unstinting hand. The total amount, in money and clothing, contributed to this single Association since its origin, a period of about seventeen months, has been about \$130,000, and it may be doubted whether any like sum has ever been the means of conferring greater good. Many lives have been prolonged, and the relief afforded to thousands by the gift of a warm garment or two cannot be estimated at all. On the banks of the Mississippi, and the shores of the Atlantic, at Norfolk, and Newbern, Savannah, and Nashville, the donors of these

almost priceless gifts have had the blessings of many who have been raised from despairing wretchedness to comparative comfort; and when their physical wants were supplied, their intellectual faculties have been administered to, through the further aid of these noble charities.

While, as was to have been expected, the citizens of our own country were first to be impressed with the necessity for prompt action in relieving the distress incident to such a rapid and unprovided-for emancipation from the toils of bondage, the hearts of thousands abroad quickly responded to the same necessity when the facts of the case were communicated to them, and many of the best men and women of other nations, and especially in our mother country, have labored and are still laboring with untiring zeal to keep open the stream of substantial aid essential to sustain the efforts of those who are working in this field. It is not, perhaps, necessary to allude here more particularly to the amounts received from England—which are specified in the Treasurer's Report—but in just acknowledgment of the exertions of our friends there, it must be stated that our usefulness as an Association has been very materially enhanced by their frequent and valuable contributions of money, clothing and other articles. The remission of the duties by our government upon goods forwarded from abroad in aid of the Freedmen, has saved to our treasury a large per centage upon the value of the clothing and other supplies received.

Few of us had any idea, at the outset of our labors, of the extent to which the work would grow. But having entered upon it earnestly, and freely expended the funds entrusted to us, as necessity seemed to require it, we have as yet, never seen the time when

we were discouraged from effort, by a lack of pecuniary aid to sustain it, nor has there been a single instance of a cry for help, coming to us from any quarter of fresh distress among these poor people, when we have been at the time pecuniarily unable to assist in their relief.

It is impossible at this time to foresee how long our existence as an Association will be desirable, but we have faith to believe that so long as it continues, those who are rightly sensible of the blessings which they have received from the hand of Divine Providence will, from time to time, set aside what they can afford, towards alleviating the sufferings of those whose lots are not cast in the midst of such rich outward blessings.

In order to act intelligently, and with a certainty of right appropriation, various districts have been visited by members of the Board, to ascertain the amount, and the kind of aid to be rendered. We believe that in all cases proper inquiry has been made before valuable clothing has been forwarded, that it might be distributed by judicious and reliable agents, and we have no reason to suppose that our confidence has been misplaced; nor are we aware that clothing or other supplies have miscarried to any important extent, or failed to arrive at their proper destination. At Nashville, where the suffering was at one time very great, the Board were fortunate in having as distributing agent, our friend Wm. F. Mitchell, who though working there under the auspices of another kindred association, was personally well known to many members of our Board.

Our settlement near Yorktown, Va., has continued to be of deep interest, as the location where the efforts of the Board have been the most permanent in elevating the Freedman from his condition, on first emerg-

ing from slavery, to a higher position, socially, intellectually and morally. As our Association early occupied this field, it has been mainly left to our care by others, and much labor and thought have been bestowed, that the trust thus imposed should be faithfully executed. Around the log dwelling, in which our operations here commenced, several other buildings have since been erected to accommodate the increased staff of teachers, storekeepers and industrial agents. From this point as a nucleus, our educational labors have spread over a district ten or twelve miles in length up the York river, and extending at one point across to the James river. Not only have the rudiments of literary education been imparted, but the home life of the Freed-People has been inspected, and lessons of domestic economy and good management inculcated, while at the same time, the sick have been visited and relieved, and kindly words of Christian sympathy spoken. We have reason to hope that our efforts here have been productive of much good, and that the benefits conferred may descend to future generations.

About the close of Seventh month, last year, sickness prevailed among our teachers at Yorktown, and at the same time fears were entertained that in consequence of the withdrawal of the troops which had been stationed there, incursions might be made by rebel guerilla parties, upon the settlements at Slabtown and Acreville. Those in charge of our store were strongly urged to move the goods within the walls of the Fort for protection, but feeling that this would not be in accordance with our Christian testimony, the only alternative left us seemed to be either to abandon the settlement entirely, or persevere under the liability to danger. Under these circumstances, our teachers and

storekeeper, believing that the desertion of the work would result in serious disadvantage, determined to remain, in reliance upon the protecting care of Divine Providence; and notwithstanding nearly all were sick at different times from the unhealthiness of the locality in the early autumn, and some were in consequence obliged to go home for a season, our charge was never abandoned, and the settlement was mercifully preserved from harm.

As new fields of labor present themselves, it is hoped that the new Board, succeeding us in this trust, will extend their operations, so that our proper share of service may be performed. The cities of Savannah and Charleston, Wilmington and Richmond, doubtless contain their thousands of the class for whose assistance we have associated ourselves. Although it will not be in our power to relieve nor to instruct all of these, yet the present condition of comparative comfort in many places where our agents and teachers have been engaged will permit us after a time to leave them, and to advance to others where the need is greater.

The Board would suggest to those especially interested in the mental elevation of the freed people, and desirous of contributing their means to this purpose, the plan of undertaking the support of a teacher in the service.

Through the columns of the "Freedmen's Friend" we have been enabled to furnish our contributors at a moderate cost, with information of the progress of our work. We are satisfied that the monthly communication this furnishes with our friends, has been extremely valuable in keeping alive the interest so essential to our success.

Attention to the physical needs of the destitute in

all parts of the country has been continued during the past year. During the summer months, the calls upon our stock of clothing were very few, but the time was actively employed in the preparation of a supply for distribution in the autumn and winter. In this work we have been acceptably seconded by many interested Friends in this city and elsewhere; and thus the manufacture of twenty-thousand, three hundred and twelve articles of clothing has been accomplished with almost no expense to the Association, beyond that of cutting out the garments and forwarding the packages. Had it been necessary for us to employ persons at usual wages to effect this, the cost would have been about three thousand six hundred dollars, an important donation thus being made to our treasury.

It has been gratifying indeed to find that a very small proportion of such of the Freedmen as have enjoyed the blessings of their new life for a single season, have required from us any considerable uncompensated help. And the gratuitous distribution of clothing during the past winter has been mainly to the refugees who accompanied the Union army in its retreat from northern Alabama to Nashville, and those who flocked to the coasts of the Carolinas and Georgia, upon being released by the march of the army through the interior of those States. We trust that the experience of another year will show even more clearly the ability and readiness of these people to support themselves, and that ere long gratuitous assistance on our part may be materially lessened.

The following synopsis of the distribution of clothing for the year, will be interesting to our contributors :

There have been sent to various settlements in

South Eastern Virginia,.....	6,261	Garments.
District of Columbia,.....	1,440	"
North and South Carolina,.....	12,643	"
Tennessee and Northern Alabama,.....	7,437	"
The Mississippi Valley,.....	5,257	"
		<hr/>
An aggregate for the year of.....	33,038	"
There had been previously distributed, as per		
last Report,.....	23,204	"
		<hr/>
Making a total since our organization of....	56,242	"

In addition to the above, there have been distributed during the year just closed :

2,373 pairs shoes.
 1,236 pairs stockings.
 415 bonnets and hats.
 983 blankets.
 6,116 yards piece goods.
 826 yards burlap, for bedding.
 116 pounds woolen yarn.

The painful struggle of physical suffering being over in a measure, the Board has been enabled to turn more attention to education. The policy indicated in the last annual report of concentrating our efforts in one locality, rather than sending a single teacher here and there over the whole country, has been adhered to, we believe, with beneficial results. Having turned our attention first to Yorktown, Va., as a field near home, and in a populous and interesting district, we have gradually extended the system of instruction there begun, over the surrounding country. A superintendent residing at Slabtown, about a mile and a half from Yorktown, oversees all of the schools in the district. Of the fifteen teachers, now employed there, four reside and teach at Slabtown, four at Acreville, two at Williamsburg, two on the Darlington farm, one on the Tinsley farm, one on the

Warren farm, one on the Bellefield farm, and two are about to be placed on the Baker Wynne farm. Of these farms, the nearest is two or three miles, and the furthest perhaps ten miles from Yorktown. The school at Williamsburg is the nearest to the city of Richmond, distant about forty miles. The Darlington, Bellefield, Tinsley and Warren farms lie along the York river, and the Baker Wynne on or near the James. Most of this field of operations is within the limits of York County, but two of the schools, the Baker Wynne and Williamsburg, are in adjacent counties. The number of scholars is about nine hundred and thirty, and the discipline and success of the schools compare favorably with those in other places. The pupils learn to read with facility, and some of them with a rapidity truly wonderful, nor are they backward in simple arithmetical studies nor in writing. Several entertaining autograph letters have been addressed by them to their teachers and the Committee, expressing generally their gratitude for the kindness shown to them by their Northern friends. It is estimated that two thousand scholars have received instruction in these schools since they were established, sixteen months ago. Nearly two hundred are now reading in the New Testament and Wilson's Second Reader, one hundred and eighty learning Mental Arithmetic, and one hundred and fifty Writing and Geography from Outline Maps. Especial effort has been made to prepare some of our pupils to instruct their own people, when our teachers are removed.

The great number of freed people who flocked to Washington, induced the Board to erect a school building there at considerable outlay. The city has since been so amply provided with schools by the various associations, that our hopes of using this school

to its utmost capacity have not yet been realized, no more than 300 pupils having yet attended it. This may have partly arisen from the fact, that the house was completed in the winter, a season very unfavorable for tempting the children from their homes, besides which, the prevalence of varioloid also deterred them for a while. We anticipate more favorable results as the warm weather advances. The building is a well lighted and comfortable frame house, 40 feet by 60, containing one large school room and two class rooms on the first floor, and twelve dormitories for teachers on the second. A back building contains a commodious kitchen, with dining and sitting room over it. The situation is pleasant, being opposite a wide, open plain, on which the army was encamped early in the war, and is nearly a mile west of Camp Barker, the former contraband village, and perhaps an equal distance north-west of the President's House. Six teachers now reside here, and the average attendance of pupils is about 250. A sewing school has also been lately started, and a person is about to be sent here, whose sole business will be, to visit the needy and impart industrial instruction.

On the whole, we have great cause for encouragement in our educational efforts, about 1200 children and adults enjoying their benefits at the present time. For the most part, the selection of teachers has been eminently successful, most of whom have shown a commendable degree of industry and self-sacrifice. Improvements are being made in the system of instruction, such as grading the larger schools, &c., from which beneficial results are anticipated, and should the future favor a continuance of the work, we may reasonably expect that our sphere of labor in this department will be enlarged for some time to come.

The material interests of this struggling people have also claimed our care. We have endeavored to foster a spirit of independence among them, which would result in the self-support of all able to work. We think this has been fairly attained in the settlements under our charge, although from the large numbers of aged and sickly persons which are gathered into all camps, rations are still issued to such as need them. The labors of the people on the large government farms in the neighborhood of Yorktown, have been so successful as greatly to encourage all concerned. A number of hoes and other farming implements, and a quantity of seeds were furnished to those thus employed, and the cost of these has been since returned to us from the proceeds of their labor.

In the settlements of Slabtown and Acreville, all who are able to work have been encouraged to do so. Some cultivate the soil, others gain a livelihood by oystering and fishing; and shoemakers, carpenters and wheelwrights ply their respective trades. We have employed a competent person to teach basket making, and the old women are furnished with knitting. Our friend, Hannah Cranstone, has opened a sewing school, and devotes much of her time to a general oversight of the indoor life of our little colony, urging the people to increased thrift and diligence. Edward W. Holway and Leonard Hole have been assiduous in their efforts to promote the interests of the people in these important matters. The former, to our great regret, has left us, to engage in a kindred work a few miles from Yorktown, and his place is supplied by the appointment of George Blackburn; and Leonard Hole is now employed in the store there.

Although much of our means has been devoted to this field of labor, we have not been unmindful of the

claims of other settlements. A considerable quantity of seeds has been lately sent to Newbern, Roanoke Island, Hilton Head and Charleston, and a large invoice of farm and garden implements to New Orleans.

In our first Annual Report, reference was made to the proposed establishment of stores, under the auspices of this Association, to aid the freedmen in their efforts towards self-support, through the ability to procure the full wages of their labor. The two stores, then contemplated at Hampton and Yorktown, Va., were opened on the 6th of 5th month, and the 9th of 6th month, 1864, respectively. We had then but little idea of the magnitude of the work in which we had engaged; for who could have believed that the few thousand freedmen, settled within reach of these stores, a very large proportion of whom were then utterly destitute, and dependent upon the National Government for their daily bread, would have the ability to earn and expend one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, in the brief period of ten and a half months? Yet the experience of these stores has shown the existence of such ability. And we have reason to believe that the purchasing power of this sum, has been nearly or quite equal to that of two hundred thousand dollars, had these stores not been established. The benefit derived from them has not, however, been limited to the saving of money, but has extended to the great promotion of civilization among its beneficiaries. Many, very many, who without such aid, would have been unable to procure the comforts of a home, have with it purchased and learned to appreciate them. The change is abundantly attested by a visit to the cabins of Slabtown and Acreville, where, a year ago, the only furniture of almost every

cabin was of the simplest and rudest kind; they are now supplied with wooden-ware, tin-ware, crockery and housekeeper's hardware. Glazed sashes, too, have been freely sold to the colored people, as a substitute for the close shutter, which, during stormy weather, sealed the only window of their comfortless abodes. Board floors in many cases have taken the place of the cold earth, and these, in turn, are sometimes covered by a warm rag carpet. These results are not from the expenditure of charity, but are the reward of individual industry, aided and enhanced by the ability thus afforded to procure all the necessities of life, at equitable prices, through our co-operating with the freedmen in conducting a *mutual* store, the profits of which are divided amongst themselves. All this has been accomplished without infringing upon the money donated to this Association, except one thousand dollars loaned to the store fund, as security for the capital contributed by individuals. The whole of this capital, including that derived from the treasury of the Association, is now unimpaired; and we believe may so continue, until the work is accomplished, when it can be returned to the several contributors, as originally contemplated.

In the management of these stores, we have, from time to time, been much embarrassed by the difficulty of procuring the services of a sufficient number of competent young Friends as salesmen. It is a branch of our work attended with a great deal of interest, affording abundant opportunity for the exercise of their talents and strength to such as feel called to the great work of improving the condition of the colored race. May we not hope, that as the good accomplished through this channel comes to be better known and

appreciated, devoted and self-sacrificing men will be found willing to undergo the labor which it involves?

The object of the stores being to protect the freed-men against extortionate prices, and especially to aid such as have recently emerged from slavery, in their self-support, we have endeavored jealously to watch the improving condition of our customers, that a work involving such risks and such labor, should not be unprofitably or unnecessarily prolonged, and that other settlements might in their turn experience the benefit of our capital. Under a full belief that the people of Hampton are now abundantly able to provide for themselves without our assistance, the Board has concluded to close the store at that place.

And now in returning to your hands the trust committed to us, we can but entreat all to enter with renewed zeal upon this great work. Although conscious that your Board has fallen far short of what might have been done, we have full confidence that an earnest and hearty interest in the future of this people will not be barren of results. As the long procession of these children of Africa comes up from their house of bondage, how does their patient endurance of unnumbered woes appeal to us for sympathy, and can we doubt that the hand of the Great Provider has been ready with abundant blessings for all who have desired to serve them?

The sweet whispers of approaching Peace are abroad in the land. What are we! that our lives have been spared in this sad carnival of Death? that the desolating march of armies has been stayed and turned from our quiet homes? Surely the wise will remember and recount these blessings, and, in the spirit of the Psalmist, endeavor to render somewhat in return. Let then no calls of pleasure or profit allow us to forget

that in each sable son of Adam we may see the image of our Lord.

And as we minister to a perishing fellow-being, or stir up in some dark mind a thirst for knowledge, we may haply experience that sweet serenity of soul which has its spring in the Divine Love.

On behalf of the Executive Board,

SAMUEL R. SHIPLEY,
President.

JOHN B. GARRETT,
Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, 4 mo. 17, 1865.

To "The Association of Friends of Philadelphia and its Vicinity, for the Relief of Colored Freedmen:"

THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

Balance on hand 4 mo. 16th, 1864, \$10,533 98

CONTRIBUTIONS.

From Friends and others in this Country,	\$36,501 37	
" London Yearly Meeting,	10,447 15	
" Dublin " "	4,462 50	
" Liverpool Committee,	10,049 09	
" other English Contributions,	3,155 11	
	<hr/>	64,615 22

Goods sold, and other returns from agents, 3,430 77

Interest, 510 59

\$79,090 56

PAYMENTS.

For dry goods, boots and shoes, and manu- facture of clothing,	\$41,708 76	
Salaries and maintenance of teachers, and other educational expenses,	17,274 68	
Cost of school house in Washington,	7,830 61	
Printing,	722 93	
Sundry expenses,	1,288 66	
Special purposes, by request of donors,	205 77	
	<hr/>	\$69,031 41

Balance on hand, \$10,059 15

Total Contributions to date, \$118,053 13

RICHARD CADBURY, *Treasurer.*

PHILADELPHIA, 4 mo. 17, 1865.

Having examined the within account of Richard Cadbury, Treasurer, and compared his payments with his vouchers, I find it correct, there being a balance in his hands of \$10,059.15, due the Association.

On behalf of the Board,

HENRY HAINES.

PHILADA., 4th mo. 17th, 1865.